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Polly the Pigeon was the first to arrive at the Friday monthly meeting of the Inhabitants of Eco Lake and its vicinity. When they had all gathered there, she mounted the Gig Rock and began the meeting.

"We are all gathered here to greet a visitor. Sniggie The Snake has asked Gippie the Gypsy Meth Caterpillar to come here. She has a complaint to make. And perhaps we have willing ears."

"Question, question," interrupted Chippy the Chipmunk. "What are willing ears? Nobody willed my ears to me. I was born with them."

"By the expression willing ears I simply mean that we are willing to listen to whatever it is that our guest has to tell us. That is all."

"My life and that of all of my relatives is being made miserable," began the Gypsy Moth Caterpillar. We are called pests. And the Department of Agriculture has declared war on us."

"Question, question," shouted Square the Squirrel.
"We have heard no declaration of worr. When Mr.
Fashie goes fishing he carries a small radio with him.
Fashie goes fishing he carries a small radio with him.
Fashie goes fishing about a declaration of war against
you. None of us have seen planes, tanks, guns, or
troops moving, and if just doesn't make sense to me, a
little caterpillar like you can cause so much trouble?
Will somebody explain it to me.

"I am willing to do that," said Willie the Worm, "If you will first tell me how listening to a radio can make time pass."

"You better let me take care of that problem," interrupted the powerful voice of Father Time. "There are twenty four hours in a day, In each hour there are sixty minutes. And in each minute there are sixty seconds. An armal year has 356 days in it. We have one extry seconds. An armal year has 356 days in it. We have one extreme it me to be so that the second of the second in the leap year. No human being can step Father Time. I go on and on. Nabody can even make me pass. Time does not go quickly or slowly. Except that some construers may think so. That human being listened to his radio. That is all. Now what was it you wanted to real us, Willis the Worm?"

"I will tell you the truth. The bitter truth of what really is taking place with the Gypsy Moth Caterpillars. They are eating leaves. Lots of leaves. I saw some charry trees that had no leaves on them. In one state alone, these catepillars ruined more than 600,000 acres of woodland. The humans have a big word for it. They call it defoliation. Go ask any tree how he feels about it. There is our friend, the Big Oak Tree. What is your reaction to it?"

"Terrible, terrible," sighed the old tree. "My relatives all over the country are complaining. There are only two solutions to the problem. One is to use an insecticide which would kill all the caterpillars. The other is to get the caterpillars to change their diet. Must they ear leaves?"

"My great grandfather ate leaves, my grandfather ate leaves, my father ate leaves, and I his son will eat leaves. Why should I change my diet?"

"There are a lot of humans that do change their diet.
Upon the advice of specialists. They do not want to get
sick. Nor ge to another world. The same holds true for
you. The bitter truth."

"What is a bitter truth?" asked Chippy the Chipmunk. "I have tasted a lot of things in my life. Some were sweet. Some were bitter. But I never tasted truth. How can you do that?"

"Can do it," explained forte the Turtle. "Just an axpression human use. When we must fece something that isn't pleasant, I am polite, I am working Gippie the Gyppy Meth Caterpillar. Levul say that Gippie was really a Hippie Meth Caterpillar. But I am polite, wen't say it. The decision is up to the caterpillar will give them the following slegan to help them: Change what we earlied are drawn or the size of the caterpillar when the went say it. The decision is up of the caterpillar when what we earlied are drawn or to the size of the size of the what we earlied are drawn or the size of the size of the size of the what we earlied are drawn or the size of the

"Don't misunderstand me," sighted the poor callpillor. "I think the best thing for me to do it to call pillor." Think the best thing for me to do it to call convention of caterpillors from all over the country. We will have to take up this metter of change of diet. Suppose we were all in a woodland where the test had no leaves. Then in order to survive we would have to find semething else to local. I think you have given me an idea. I am thankful for it."

"Meeting is adjourned," said Polly the Pigeon.
"And we do all wish a lot of luck to the caterpillars. But
remember how the trees feel about it. Consider them."











